Sugar Prices

†3903. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail selling price of sugar in the country has risen considerable during the last few months;

(b) if so, the hike in prices during December, 2004 in comparison to the prices during March, 2004;

(c) average retail selling price of sugar in December, 2004; and

(d) the total storage of sugar in the country by the end of December, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The average retal price of sugar in the four principal markets of the country was in the range of Rs. 16.75 — 20.00 per kg. during the month of December, 2004 as against Rs. 15.00 — 17.00 per kg. during the month of March, 2004.

(d) The total stock of sugar in the country by the end of December, 2004 was 89.27 lakh tonnes (Provisional).

Allocations to Karnataka

3904. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation of rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene to Karnataka from January, 2004 to the end of December, 2004;

(b) whether there is any demand from Karnataka for the enhancement of quota of these foodgrains and kerosene;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken to increase the allocation?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocation of rice and wheat was 27.08 lakh tonnes and 6.77 lakh tonnes resepctively to the State of Karnataka during January to December, 2004.

An additional allocation of 15841 tonnes of rice was also made on12.05.2004 to provide supplementary nutrition support in the wake of drought in the State.

Under Welfare Scheme allocation is made on yearly basis. During 2003-04 the total allocations made under various Welfare Schemes were 19.56 lakh tonnes of rice and 0.98 lakh tonnes of wheat. Similarly, the total allocations during 2004-05 were 7.49 lakh tonnes of rice and 0.78 lakh tonnes of wheat.

During January, 2004 to December, 2004, 1.09 lakh tonnes of levy sugar and 4.66 lakh tonnes of kerosene was allocated to Government of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) A request was received from the State of Karnataka in May, 2004 for allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) for all the 63 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families identified by the State Government instead of 31.29 lakh families for which allocation is being made by the Central Government. Identification of BPL families under TPDS is to be carried out by the States/UTs as per State-wise poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94, based on the population projection of Registrar General of India as on 01.03.2000. The allocation of foodgrains is being made on the basis of number of ration cards issued by the States or on the estimates of Planning Commission, whichever is less. Allocation of foodgrains to the State of Karnataka is being made as per this criteria and it is not possible for the Central Government to deviate from norms for a particular State in isolation.

No request has been received from the State of Karnataka for enhancement of quota of levy sugar.

A request has been received by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in April, 2005 for enhancement of kerosene allocation to the maximum extent possible.

(d) The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) have been commissioned by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to undertake the first-ever study of kerosene demand in the country.

Procurement and Distribution of Grains

3905. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Food Ministers have agreed to undertake procurement and distribution of grains through their designated agencies and co-operatives as the Central Government agreed to render a package of incentives;

(b) if so, whether the package of incentives was proposed in the Conference of State Food Secretaries;

(c) the other decisions taken;

(d) to what extent this proposal has been helpful for States on procurement and distribution; and

(e) to what extent incentives have been provided to these States by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the recommendations of the Conference of State Food Ministers, the State Governments/UTs Administrations have been, *inter-alia,* requested to procure foodgrains under the Decentralized Procurement Scheme so as to make the Public Distribution System more cost-effective as well as to cater to local taste.

(b), (d) and (e) In pursuance of the decision of the Conference of State Food Secretaries the following additional components of costs have been sanctioned for procurement by State agencies under the Decentralized procurement scheme:

(i) Transportation cost from the procurement centre to the storage point and from the storage point to the milling point;